

Towles House
Towles Point
Lancaster County
Virginia

HABS No. VA-62

HABS
VA
52-BERT.V,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Virginia

Historic American Buildings Survey
Eugene Bradbury, Architect in Charge
Grace Securities Building, Richmond, Virginia

TOWLES HOUSE (Residence)
Towles Point, Lancaster County, Virginia
BERTRAND P.O.

HABS
VA-52
BERT.V.1-

Owner: ~~Howard McJelton Towles~~

Date of Erection:

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Henry Towles, Jr. (owner)

Present Condition: Ruinous

Number of Stories: Story and a half

Materials of Construction: Brick ends and chimneys, frame front
and rear walls

Other Existing Records: None known

Additional Data: Towles Point in Lancaster County, is not only one of the oldest houses in Virginia, but is remarkable for having continued for more than two hundred years in the possession of one family. Henry Towles Jr., removed from the Eastern Shore of Virginia in 1711, and built the house at Towles Point. He married Anne Therett and, dying in 1734, was succeeded by his son, Stokeley Towles, who married Catherine Martin and had (besides Colonel Thomas Towles and Major Stokeley Towles, each of whom was a militia officer during the Revolution) a son, Colonel Henry Towles (1738-1799), who succeeded his father at Towles Point. Henry Towles, who was a Colonel of militia during the Revolution, and County Lieutenant of Lancaster, in 1794, married in 1760, Judith Haynes. Colonel Towles had eight children, and at his death the estate was sold for division, but was bought by his daughter, Frances, who had married her cousin, Porteus Towles (1777-1821). Porteus and Frances Towles were succeeded at Towles Point by their son, William Henry Towles (1803-1836), who married Keturah, widow of Thomas Towles. At the death of W. H. Towles the old home again passed by inheritance to his son James Towles (1829-1896), who married Josephine Isabella Whittington, and left a number of children, one of whom, Howard McJelton Towles, a prominent lawyer of Baltimore, is the present owner of Towles Point. (Historic Virginia Homes and Churches--R. A. Lancaster).

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Towles' Point, on the bank of the Rappahannock, near where it sweeps down to meet the waters of Corotoman River, is one of the oldest houses in the Northern Neck. For two hundred and fifty years it has known no master save one bearing the name Towles. Seven generations of Towleses have been born in it and have occupied it. However, about fifteen years ago, when it was greatly damaged by a storm, it was abandoned. A quaint house it is, small and low, among its four large chimneys. Near the water's edge may be seen the brick foundations of a small building. It was the office of the clerk of Lancaster County--a member of the Towles family--in the early days of the county. (The county clerk's office in early Colonial days was where the clerk lived). (Historic Northern Neck of Virginia--H. Ragland Eubank).

The original grant was made to John Pine and was bought by Henry Towles on May 11, 1711.

West end of house built in 1659. (Source: Dr. T. N. Barnette)

Author: Eugene Bratting

Approved: [Signature]

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